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# NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #100 - POSTED 11/26/93

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newsline is posted on this CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call

Los Angeles.....	(213) 462-0008
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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You  
NEWSLINE

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Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY  
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN  
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

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[850]

\* \* \* \* C L O S E D C I R C U I T A D V I S O R Y \* \* \* \*

\* \* \*

\* The following is a closed circuit advisory and NOT \*  
\* for air on amateur radio. We have received late word from \*  
\* our support fund administrator that the monies needed to \*  
\* pay the our monthly bills is still dangerously low. \*

\* Yes, there are many sources of ham radio news, but only \*  
\* Newsline brings up to the minute ham radio news direct to \*  
\* you over your favorite repeater. But doing this costs \*  
\* money. It takes over \$700 a month to keep Newsline alive. \*  
\* Recognizing this, Dr. norm Chalfin, K6PGX established the \*  
\* Newsline Support Fund. It's kept separate from Newsline \*  
\* and exists only to pay the week to week operating expenses \*  
\* of the operation. It again needs the support of all of \*  
\* you who want to see Newsline survive so that these weekly \*  
\* bulletins can continue to air. \*

\* \* \*

\* The address for the Newsline Support Fund is Post \*  
\* Office Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102. \*

\* \* \*

\* Your assistance is needed as soon as possible. We thank \*  
\* you all for your ongoing generosity and support. \*

\* \* \*

\* That ends the closed circuit advisory with Newsline \*

\* report number 850 for release on Friday, November 26, 93 \*  
\* to follow. \*  
\* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

#### BOYER vs. FCC

The San Diego Union Tribune reports that a ham wants his hand held radio back after agreeing to surrender the radio to the FCC. This, after he used the allegedly illegally modified device to place an emergency call to the county sheriff on a department frequency.

The FCC says that Chris Boyer, KC6UQG violated its regulations when he showed up on a Sheriffs department administrative channel seeking assistance for his friend Craig Bosworth who had been injured in a cycling accident. This is exactly what happened because KC6UQG decided to be Good Samaritan and, in he process he seems to have stepped on the toes of some apparent bureaucrats in the San Diego Sheriffs Office. Bureaucrats, who seem to feel that their radio channels should never be used by anyone outside of the bureau, even if it if the situation could be a matter of life and death. Bureaucrats, who know the nations communications law and seem intent on using it against KC6UQG.

Boyer contends that he made a responsible decision to use the sheriffs frequency only after exhausting all other communications options. He told the newspaper that Bosworth was in a ravine and that he tried five other radio channels and a cellular telephone without any success. It was then that he tuned his radio over to the Sheriffs department administrative channel to call for help.

Two weeks after the incident Boyer says that he received a letter from Bill Kahn, the Communications Coordinator for the Sheriffs Department. Kahn directed Boyer to bring his hand held to a meeting with Kahn and a representative of the San Diego FCC. While the newspaper story does get a bit convoluted here, it appears as if Boyer was given a choice of facing prosecution in federal court for using an illegally modified radio on an unauthorized frequency or forfeiting the hand held to the government. He chose the latter and that should have been the end of it, but it was not.

A few weeks later Kahn found himself in a similar situation. He was out on what the newspaper described as a pleasure hike when he took ill. The Tribune says that Kahn used a similar frequency to call in a Sheriff's Department helicopter to get him. When Boyer learned of this incident. He termed it elitist and hired a lawyer to go up against the Sheriff's Department and the F.C.C..

But the Commission says that there is a big difference between Boyer using an illegally modified piece of ham gear on the

Sheriffs' Administrative channel and a department employee doing the same using a properly Type Accepted hand-held with proper FCC licensing.

At the request of Boyer and his legal counsel the investigation of this matter has been re-opened. Because of this the FCC cannot comment any further at this time.

And this final note. Please don't blame the FCC for this one. As far as we can tell, the San Diego FCC office would not have gotten involved except for the Sheriff's complaint. The People running the FCC Office in San Diego appear to be leaning over backward to try and satisfy both parties in this case. Its the sheriff, or at least someone in the Sheriff's office that is making all the noise.

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#### CALLING FOR HELP IS ILLEGAL

By the way, there are many hams who believe that any citizen can use any radio on any frequency to report an emergency situation and request aid. We thought so also, and that used to be the case, but not anymore.

It all changed very quietly back on October 18, 1984. That's when the FCC passed Docket 83-991. This action modified Part 90.47, subpart A of the rules to read -- and we quote:

"Persons or organizations maintaining an eligibility in isolated areas where public communications facilities are not available and where the use of radio is the only feasible means of establishing communications with a center of population, or other point from where emergency assistance might be obtained if needed, are eligible to hold authorizations to operate radio stations for the transmission of messages only during an actual or impending emergency endangering life, health or property for the transmission of essential communications arising from the emergency. The transmission of routine or non-emergency communications is strictly prohibited." -- end quote.

That's the text of Section 90.47A of the FCC rules governing who is prohibited from using radio to report emergency situations. It also appears to be the regulation that the San Diego Sheriffs department seems to have come on to use against Chris Boyer, KC6UQG.

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#### NEW FORM 610

A totally new Form 610 is on its way into ham radio as the result of the new computer at the FCC. As a result, the long standing traditional version will soon be a thing of the past.

Among the significant changes, the new 610 does away with all

of the boxes previously contained in the Administering VE's Report. The report itself has now been moved to the bottom of the front side of the form, right above the VE Certification area. As a result, an administering VE will now only need to indicate one of six classes of license that an applicant is qualified for. The sixth category is the Technician Plus and its inclusion on the new 610 is an indicator that the Commission plans on tracking the holders of the Tech Plus license using its new computer and software.

Eliminated are areas to report current station location, the older Novice Test VE certification and the change of station location areas. Still included is the Physicians Certification of Disability to be used by candidates qualified to request waivers of the 13 and 20 word per minute code tests due to a physical handicap. This aspect of the 610 has been expanded to provide the FCC with more detail on both the applicant and the doctor providing the certification.

The new 610 replaces the March 1992 version which carries a February 1995 expiration date, but which can no longer be used after the new version is available to the public.

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#### ARRL ELECTIONS

The results are in for 1994 and hams from across the country have elected four ARRL Division Directors. Ballots were counted at League headquarters November 19th. Amateurs in two Divisions decided to stick with familiar names.

Frank Butler, W4RH, is no stranger to the office he sought. Butler has served as Southeast Division Director for 13 years. Now amateurs decide he should serve two more years. Butler defeats three challengers, including the leagues section manager from Northern Florida. Butler wins by nearly a thousand votes over his closest challenger. In the ARRL's Delta Division another incumbent returns to office, Joel Harrison, WB5IGF, wins with a three hundred seventy four vote margin. In the Midwest Division Lou Gordon, K4VX, wins the Directors post with a sixty five vote margin. On the west coast Brad Wyatt, K6WR, formerly the Pacific Division Vice Director is elected Director. All four directors have been elected to two year terms. The winners take office at noon New Years Day 1994.

Four Vice-Director positions were also announced on November 19th. Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR, was re-elected in the Southeast Division. In the Midwest Division, amateurs selected Bruce Frahm, K0BJ. Jim Maxwell, W6CF, was elected in the Pacific Division. Finally, the Dakota Division's Vice Director slot goes to Hans Brakob, K0HB.

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#### MORE PREFERRED CALL SIGNS SOUGHT

The ARRL has asked the FCC to consider a method of expanding the number of so called preferred call signs in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. The Group A call signs for Extra Class licensees have run out in all three areas, and Group B call signs for Advanced Class licensees are nearly exhausted for Puerto Rico.

So, in a letter to the FCC, the ARRL has suggested that more call signs could be made available by a change in its Public Notice announcing available call sign blocks. The League said the incentive of preferred call signs was important to the continued upgrading of amateurs' skills.

The League's proposal is this. For Alaska, that's Region 11, allow numerals other than 7, which currently is required in all Alaska call signs. In Region 12, Puerto Rico, allow the numeral 3 as well as the current numeral 4, with provisions for Desecheo. Finally for Hawaii which is Region 13, allow the numeral 7 as well as the current numeral 6, with provisions for the other U.S. territories and possessions in the Pacific.

The ARRL says that this proposal is not related to any other currently before the FCC and requires no notice or comment rule making proceeding.

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#### CODELESS CONQUEST

"Codeless Hams Conquer the World" is the banner in column three of page 39 of the November 1993 issue of Popular Communications. In his column, author Harry Helms, AA6FW, makes it very clear that he believes that the day is not far off when the codeless Technician class amateur will take over and rule the political end of Amateur Radio.

Its after reviewing the unprecedented success of the no-code Technician class license that Helms gets to the meat of the story. He asks the rhetorical question of how much longer can -- what he calls the ham radio establishment hold out -- when an eventual majority of United States hams will be holders of codefree Technician class tickets. Helms says that eventually, these Technician class operators will elect their own ARRL Directors more to their liking, or throw their collective political might to some new organization that better represents their needs. Helms who holds the call sign AA6FW says that either way, the current ham radio establishment -- we guess he is referring to the higher class license holders such as General, Advanced and Extra -- he says -- and we quote -- "the ham radio establishment is picking a fight it can't win." -- end quote.

Helms also takes a swipe at the reluctance of the ham radio operators of today not being willing to let go of the Morse Code as a requisite to operate on bands below thirty megahertz. AA6FW feels that the last stand for Morse Code will be at the next World Administrative Radio Conference. He predicts that in less than two decades anyone will be able to get any class of ham radio license without having to take a Morse Code test.

This rather intriguing Harry Helms article begins on page 39 of the November issue of Popular Communications Magazine.

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#### TEACHING RS

On the educational scene, word that James Sweitzer, KB9HRB, the Assistant Director of the Center for Astrophysical Research in Antarctica, Astronomy and Astrophysics Center University of Chicago is teaching an outreach class to students in that venue's inner city. The entire curriculum involves the study of Earth orbiting satellites including among others, tracking of the Russian RS10/11 ham radio satellite.

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#### FUJI OSCAR 20 SCHEDULE CHANGES

Effective December 1, 1993, the Fuji-OSCAR 20 satellite will change its digital and analog operating schedule. At present, the satellite functions as a packet radio bulletin board every day except Wednesday when it switches to the analog transponder CW SSB mode for approximately 24 hours. But beginning on December 1st at 08:43 UTC, OSCAR 20 will be switched to the analog mode, Mode JA, where it will remain for one week. On December 11th at 07:51 UTC, it will be switched back to the digital BBS mode, Mode JD, for one week. The modes will continue to alternate on a weekly basis until further notice.

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#### HAMSHOWS WEST CANCELED

Hamshows-San Diego and Hamshows-San Jose, both scheduled for January of 1994 have been canceled. This, due to health problems encountered by the company's President Mike Forsyth, N7KQE. According to CQ Magazine publisher Dick Ross K2MGA, the illness from which Forsyth is suffering is in no way life threatening, but Mike is required to refrain from strenuous activity at this time. Hamshows events slated for other venues later in 1994 are not affected by the January cancellations in California. Ross's CQ Communications is a co-sponsor of Hamshows conventions in association with Forsyth's Hamshows Corporation.

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## BALLOON REWARD

The ARRL reports Mississippi balloonist Robert Vandaman N5KBQ may be in the market for some new ham equipment. This is because Vandaman was the winner of the Key Grab in the 1993 Sky Parade held at an aerial exposition held at the Jackson Mississippi International Airport over Labor Day.

In the competition, pilots attempt to manipulate their balloons into position that permits them to grab a key from atop a thirty foot high pole. Because of the complexity of the maneuvers that are required this is a balloon show event that rarely sees a winner. And when someone does succeed, the prize is usually nothing larger than a new car.

But it was a lot more than a car -- or even two cars that Vandaman wound up with. The prize for this key grab was fifty thousand dollars in cold United States cash! Now you see why the ARRL is saying that N5KBQ may be in the market for some new ham gear. With these winnings he can set up a world class DX or contest station and still have money to spare.

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That's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at Post Office Box 463 in Pasadena, CA 91102.

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